

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1-20 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 have been amended and new claims 17-20 have been added. Support for the amended claims and new claims can be found, for example, at page 5, line 7 to page 6, line 12 and page 11, lines 21-24 of the present specification.

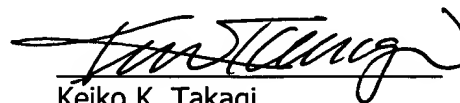
Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants respectfully request a personal interview with the Examiner at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the above, reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 1, 2004 (May 30, 2004 being a Sunday and May 31, 2004 being a Federal Holiday)